

Protecting the Most Vulnerable and Supporting Seattle's Communities

Highlights of Seattle City Council's 2012 Budget Actions

Homeless Families – Additional funding for critical housing services

- Expand the Rapid Re-Housing Program that provides financial assistance to place families into rental housing. (\$150,000)
- Expand the Shelter and Transitional Housing program that will provide shelter or transitional housing services for homeless families. (\$150,000)
- Create an Opportunity Fund for facility improvements at religious organizations providing shelter and other services for homeless families and individuals. (\$75,000)
- Expand the Emergency Services Program for homeless families that will provide emergency hotel or motel vouchers and case management services to help move families off the streets. (\$40,000)
- Fund case management services in support of a Safe Parking Pilot Program. (\$20,000)

Public Health – Responding to the growing need for health services

- Additional funding to provide health care to uninsured clients at Seattle's public health clinics. (\$250,000)
- Fund an expansion of the very successful, evidence-based Nurse-Family Partnership Program that links professional nurses to first-time low-income mothers. (\$478,000)

Immigrant and Refugees Issues – Providing a new City focus

- Establish a separate office to address immigrant and refugee issues and to coordinate City activities in support of these communities.
- Fund two full-time positions to initiate this new office.

Addressing Neighborhood Challenges

- Establish a new Precinct Liaison Program within the City Attorney's Office. The precinct liaison attorneys would work closely with police officers and SPD leadership to address a variety of community and neighborhood problems, including nuisance properties, nightlife issues, graffiti abatement, alcohol impact areas, and crime hot spots. (\$376,000)

- Provide funding for significant improvements in the downtown 3rd Avenue corridor, including on-going support (\$175,000+) to provide additional cleaning, and one-time funding (\$350,000) for capital improvements. Also call for creation of a task force to address underlying public safety and economic development concerns.

Transportation – Targeted neighborhood investments

- Fund a significant pedestrian safety project at 23rd Ave S and Rainier Blvd S. (\$317,000)
- Provide initial planning and design dollars for the Fauntleroy Green Boulevard project. This project will support proposed land-use changes at this gateway to West Seattle. (\$250,000)
- Establish a funding reserve for the First Hill Streetcar to help ensure that project commitments are fulfilled. (\$800,000)
- Maintain City commitment to completing the Mercer West project that will complete the solution to the “Mercer Mess.”
- Update the bicycle master plan to ensure that the City makes the wisest investments in bicycle infrastructure. (\$250,000)

Council’s Investments Funded Responsibly

- Rely on the \$3.4 million revenue reserve in the proposed budget to address downgrade in revenue forecasts, but do not touch the Rainy Day Fund. In fact, Council maintains a contribution of \$1.9 million to the City’s Rainy Day Fund.
- Reprioritize approximately \$2 million in proposed funding additions to the SDOT budget.
- Take advantage of recent changes in City’s retirement system to increase available funding, but overall budget increases City contributions to the retirement system to ensure fund stability.
- Cut more than \$250,000 in position adds proposed by the Mayor.
- Reduce planned funding for 2012 ballot measures (one election, not two) of \$700,000.
- Maintain separate Office of Housing and Office of Economic Development while achieving staff efficiencies that generate annual savings of over \$400,000.